

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-12 NEA-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 OES-03 L-03 CU-02 ABF-01

OPR-02 PER-01 A-01 AID-05 MED-02 DODE-00 /107 R

DRAFTED BY OMB:EJOHNSON:S/NM:DHERNST

APPROVED BY S/S - MR. MOFFAT

DOMESTIC COUNCIL:RPARSONS

NSC:HHORAN

S - MR. COVEY

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R 141644Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE DOMESTIC COUNCIL DRUG REVIEW TASK
FORCE

TO CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM THE SECRETARY

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, PRESIDENT FORD HAS DIRECTED THE
DOMESTIC COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A DRUG REVIEW TASK FORCE
BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF A RESURGING DRUG
ABUSE PROBLEM. ITS OBJECTIVES WILL BE TO:

A. ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR CURRENT DRUG PRO-
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GRAMS AND POLICIES; AND

B. DETERMINE IF OUR DRUG STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES ARE APPROPRIATE TO MEET THE CURRENT THREAT.

2. THIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE WILL REVIEW THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DRUG PROGRAM AND PREPARE A WHITE PAPER ON DRUG ABUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION BY EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE TASK FORCE WILL CONSIST OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WHICH HAVE A PRIMARY INTEREST IN THE OVERALL DRUG PROBLEM; THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE, MY SENIOR ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS.

3. IN OPENING THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE, VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER SAID:

QUOTE: I BELIEVE THAT DRUG ABUSE IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT, MOST IMPORTANT, AND MOST TRAGIC PROBLEMS THIS NATION FACES. THEREFORE, I APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS ALL OF YOU AND YOUR AGENCIES ARE MAKING TO BRING THIS PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL.

QUOTE: YOU HAVE TAKEN UPON YOURSELVES ONE OF THE TOUGHEST, YET ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL TASKS OUR SOCIETY FACES.

QUOTE: THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO SEEING THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM THROUGH. THE HIGH PRIORITY ACCORDED THE PROGRAM HAS NOT AND WILL NOT DIMINISH.

QUOTE: THE WORK OF THIS REVIEW GROUP IS A CRITICAL PART OF ENSURING THAT WE ARE DOING THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE IN CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE. I KNOW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT I AM TOTALLY BEHIND THE WORK YOU ARE DOING IN THE TASK FORCE AND WILL HELP IN ANY WAY THAT I CAN. END QUOTE.

4. IN THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, THE VICE PRESIDENT EXHIBITED A KEEN INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. AT ONE POINT HE SAID:
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QUOTE: I AM PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN BRINGING OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO RECOGNIZE DRUGS AS A PROBLEM OF THEIR OWN; NOT MERELY AN AMERICAN PROBLEM. THE WORK YOU WERE DOING IN GIVING THESE GOVERNMENTS THE TOOLS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IS IMPORTANT AND MUCH APPRECIATED. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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